

ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
21 OCTOBER 2014

Members Present: Lawrence, Castell, Gadsden, Greene, Hughes

Staff Present: Keating

The meeting was called to order at 8pm.

1. ARB #25-2014

Darien Carpet, 39 Tokeneke Road, CBD Zone.

Proposed blade signs.

Madeline Rybnick, owner of Darien Carpet presented a design for two new blade signs, crafted with an oval white wood background (15" high x 28 " long) and red letters 3.1" high. The black scrolled arm iron brackets will be mounted along the Tokeneke Road storefront, on the right side of the store near the main door, and the 2nd sign at the rear entrance by the stairs (adjacent to Center Street). Staff remarked that the bottom of the blade signs shall hang a minimum of 7 feet off the ground and the top of the sign no higher than 12 feet. The Board approved the proposed signage.

2. ARB #26-2014

STEAM, 971 Boston Post Road, CBD Zone.

Proposed two wall signs, on front and back.

Allen Lee, owner of STEAM presented a design for two new signs. The proposed sign for the Post Road entrance includes applied black pin letters 10" high, mounted and centered above the door, and illuminated with 3 existing goose neck lights. At the rear entrance, new 10" STEAM letters will be applied to the existing sign board mounted to the right of the door, lit from above with 2 existing goose neck lamps. The Board approved the design.

3. ARB #27-2014

Darien Academic Advisors, 975 Boston Post Road, CBD Zone.

Proposed wall sign.

Michael White from Darien Academic Advisors presented a design for a new white PVC sign 24"L x 20"H with blue raised dimensional letters 3.5" high. The sign will be mounted above the entrance door using the existing mounting brackets. Applied white letters indicating the name and address of the business will be added to the glass door. The Board approved the proposed design.

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4. ARB #28-2014

Kumon of Darien, 899 Boston Post Road, CBD Zone.
Proposed wall sign, awning and window decals.

Kerri O'Brien presented a design for a new awning extending the width of the store. The Sunbrella "Capri" blue awning includes the Kumon logo with 10" white letters, and Math. Reading. Success. in 3.5" lettering. The 2 blue continuous sign bands running across the width of the storefront have been eliminated from the proposal. Applied white letters on the storefront glass will read "the world's most successful after school learning program" and "an academic enrichment program preschool through 12th grade." The Board requested the address #899 be applied in white letters over the door. At the rear entry door a 3' x 1'-6" sign, blue background with white lettering, will be mounted over the door. The Board approved the proposed designs.

5. ARB # 29-2014

Country Club of Darien, 300 Mansfield Avenue, R-2 Zone.

David Woods, AIA from Culpen & Woods Architects, and Jan Goldfluss, Landscape Architect from Wesley Stout Associates presented a plan for alterations to the Country Club of Darien. The proposed alterations include the demolition of the one story Medallion Room dining structure and the construction of an expanded dining facility with a covered outdoor veranda. The design of the new dining structure will more closely relate to the historic architecture of the club with a gambrel roof profile to match the existing. The Veranda will have two tiers of Nanawall glass door partitions (7'-6" H with clerestory lights above) to provide a versatile dining and gathering space which can be enclosed in inclement weather. The veranda will transition to the existing adjacent terrace area. All cedar shingles and asphalt shingles will match the existing, and the stone walls with 4" thick stone veneer will match that used for the pool stone walls. The paved cart path and landscape will be modified to accommodate the changes to the building and terrace.

Additionally, the Terrace area alteration will also include the addition of movable glass doors (9'-6" H Nanawall doors) along the columns to allow use of the space year round. The terrace area will be raised 11" to align with the interior ballroom floor level. The patio and stone steps will be rebuilt to create a more ceremonial and gracious outdoor space, and the south lawn regraded and replanted. A new flex space including a fire pit will be included.

A new pitched roof will be added to the west façade of the main club house which currently houses the men's locker area. The proposed roof design includes small dormers, and new shingle siding will match the existing shingle cladding of the Club House. The ARB approved the proposed alterations and commended the architects for their thoughtful and sensitive renovation of the historic Auchincloss estate over the course of the past 15 years.

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6. ARB #30-2014

Pure Barre, 313 Heights Road, Noroton Heights Shopping Center, DC Zone.
Proposed hanging sign.

Kristin McClutchy from Pure Barre presented plans for a new hanging sign, 6' W x 12" H, using existing hanging brackets. The proposed sign band has a white background with a 10" logo and 9" pure barre red letters. The sign was approved .

7. Continuation of ARB #22-2014

2 Squab Lane, CBD Zone.

Tucker Chase, Architect presented a revised design for a proposed building on Squab Lane. The new design, reminiscent of a nineteenth century train station, has a brick base, clapboard siding, and a metal standing seam roof supported by ornamental brackets. On the Squab Lane elevation, the entrance doors are centered on the north wall, which the Board prefers. The brick clad ground level of the west, south and east elevations include storefront windows with multi-paned windows.

The Board recommended that the architect consider wood framed storefronts, and windows with fewer, perhaps 4 divided lights, which would be more consistent with the design of the building. Regarding the west elevation, the Board requested that the vacant space above the 2nd floor windows be reconsidered, which would improve the façade's proportion. Additionally, on the west and south elevation, the gable windows could be modified to better reflect the style of the building.

A preliminary schematic design for a monumental stair and plaza leading from Squab Lane was also presented. The Board recommended that given it's important location and proximity to the Darien train station, the design affords the owners and architect an opportunity to create a wonderful public space, allowing the public to transition from the train station to the new building and its amenities. The Board encouraged the architect to consider a broad and gracious stairway, in the manner of the public stairs at the Spanish Steps in Rome, Fanueil Hall in Boston, or the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The opportunity for green space and landscape plantings was discussed. The advantage of enlisting the professional services of a Landscape Architect was discussed.

The Board commended the Architect and the Dolcetti brothers as owners, for the revised and improved design for this important parcel in downtown Darien. Further design revisions will be submitted to the ARB for review at next month's meeting.

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Modification to ARB #19-2009
Espresso NEAT, 22 Grove Street, CBD Zone.
Proposed replacement hanging sign.

No information was submitted for review, thus no action was taken.

Approval of Minutes.
The minutes of the meeting of 16 September 2014 were unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita C. Gadsden